

What the data show about child all round development:

1. As the world enters the third decade of the 21st century, 152 million children around the world are still in child labour, 73 million of them in hazardous work.
2. A **Rapid Survey on Children (2013-14)**, jointly undertaken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and UNICEF, found that less than half of children in the age group of 10-14 years have completed primary education. These remain challenges we must overcome.
3. The Census of India 2011 reports 10.1 million working children in the age group of 5-14 years, out of whom 8.1 million are in rural areas mainly engaged as cultivators (26%) and agricultural labourers (32.9%).
4. A **Government of India survey** (NSS Report, 2017-18) suggests that 95% of the children in the age group of 6-13 years are attending educational institutions (formal and informal) while the corresponding figures for those in the age group of 14-17 years is 79.6%.
5. Hence, a large number of children in India remain vulnerable, facing physical and psychological risks to a healthy development.
6. While multiple data vary widely on enrolment/attendance ratios in India, UNESCO estimates based on the 2011 Census record 38.1 million children as “out of school” (18.3% of total children in the age group of 6-13 years).
7. Work performed may not appear to be immediately dangerous, but it may produce **long-term and devastating consequences** for their education, their skills acquisition, and hence their future possibilities to overcome the vicious circle of poverty, incomplete education and poor-quality jobs.

A decrease in India: child labour in India decreased in the decade:

One piece of good news is that child labour in India decreased in the decade 2001 to 2011, and this demonstrates that the **right combination of policy and programmatic interventions** can make a difference.

Policy interventions such as the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005**, the **Right to Education Act 2009** and the **Mid Day Meal Scheme** have paved the way for children to be in schools along with guaranteed wage employment (unskilled) for rural families.

Concerted efforts towards **convergence of government schemes** is also the focus of the implementation of the National Child Labour Project.